

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 10318 01 OF 02 091202 Z

42

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 NSC-10 IO-03 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DPW-01 PRS-01 AID-10 RSR-01 DODE-00 /070 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2931

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 10318

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT- JUNE 9, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 10318 01 OF 02 091202 Z

EMBASSY AS OF 1800 JUNE 9. IT IS SUBMITTED AS A SPECIAL REPORT DUE
TO INDICATIONS OF STEPPED UP MILITARY ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT SVN. ANOTHER

SPECIAL SITREP WILL BE FILED JUNE 10.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAIN INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY THROUGHOUT SVN DURING

THE PAST TWENTY- FOUR HOURS, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO FIRM INDICATION THAT THE COMMUNIST HAVE LAUNCHED ANOTHER COUNTRY- WIDE " PRE- CEASEFIRE" OFFENSIVE. A GOOD PORTION OF THE COMBAT IS RECENT DAYS APPEARS TO HAVE

RESULTED FROM RVNAF INITIATIVES. THESE APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN SOME CASES TO PREEMPT ANTICIPATED ENEMY THRUSTS, AND IN OTHERS TO EXPAND GVN AREAS OF CONTROL. ONE OF THE LATTER EFFORTS, THE ARVN 5 TH DIV ATTEMPT TO OPEN ROUTE 13 TO AN LOC, APPEARS TO HAVE STALLED. THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, CASUALTIES ARE UP SHARPLY ON BOTH SIDES, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT WHETHER ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN AREA AND/ OR POPULATION CONTROL WILL EMERGE. MEANWHILE, THERE IS CONTINUED APPREHENSION LEST THE NVA/ VC EMPLOY THEIR CONSIDERABLE MAINFORCE STRENGTH IN A MAJOR COUNTRYWIDE PUSH.

2. FROM THE PARITAL INFO IN HAND, COMMUNIST INITIATIVES APPEAR UNDERWAY IN QUANG NAM, KONTUM, AND CHUONG THIEN, WHILE THE PICTURE IS MORE MIXED IN BINH LONG AND BINH DUONG, IN MR-3. THERE NVA MAIN FORCE UNITS HAVE DEPLOYED QUITE CLOSE TO KEY GVN- HELD POPULATED AREAS AND ARVN HAS RESPONDED WITH AIR, ARTILLERY, AND AS NOTED ABOVE WITH AN EFFORT TO CLEAR ROUTE 13. IN THE NORTHERN DELTA PROVINCE OF DINH TUONG, WHERE GVN SPOKESMEN CONTINUE TO ALLEGE A MAJOR ENEMY THRUST AGAINST ROUTE 4, THE FIGHTING REMAINS LARGELY THE RESULT OF A PLANNED ARVN INCURSION INTO COMMUNIST BASE AREA 470.

3. THE NVN PARTY NEWSPAPER NHAN DAN ON JUNE 9 REJECTED AS UNTRUE REPORTS THAT THE US AND DRV HAVE AGREED ON A PLAN ON ENDING THE FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA. AND IN SAIGON, AN ACRIMONIOUS IMPASSE DEVELOPED DURING THE NIGHT OF JUNE 8-9 BETWEEN THE DRV AND RVN OVER THE ISSUE OF THE INSPECTION OF THE BAGGAGE OF DRV PERSONNEL ABOARD A USAF C-130 AIRCRAFT WHICH EXPERIENCED AN INFLIGHT INCIDENT WHEN RETURNING FROM HANOI TO SAIGON JUNE 8. THE INCIDENT INVOLVED THE IGNITION OF SOME TYPE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 10318 01 OF 02 091202 Z

OF INDENDIARY DEVICE CONTAINED IN THE BAGGAGE OF ONE OF THE DRV PASSENGERS. AS OF 1800 JUNE 9, THE PLANESIDE DEADLOCK CONTINUES, ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN REGISTERED TOWARD A RESOLUTION.

PART I: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

ACCORDING GVNDEL SOURCE, THE JUNE 8 MEETING OF CHIEFS WAS ACRIMONIOUS AND UNPRODUCTIVE, PROBABLY REFLECTING INTENTION OF BOTH SIDES TO MARK TIME WHILE AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS IN PARIS. MOST OF SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO USUAL TRADING OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATION CHARGES. GVNDEL WAS HEADED ON THIS OCCASION BY A COLONEL, WHO AT ONE POINT REPORTEDLY MADE REMARKS SUGGESTIVE OF LESS THAN COMPLETE RESPECT FOR HO CHI MINH. THIS DREW HEATED REPLY FROM PRG CHIEF/ TUAN.

VIRTUALLY NOTING OF SUBSTANCE WAS DISCUSSED.

PART II: FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT)

1. A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FPJMT WAS HELD ON JUNE 9 TO DISCUSS AN INCIDENT WHICH OCCURED ON THE JUNE 8 SAIGON- HANOI USAF C-130 LIAISON FLIGHT. SHORTLY AFTER THE FLIGHT DEPARTED HANOI A DEVICE, CONTAINED IN AN OVERNIGHT BAG BROUGHT ABOARD BY A DRV DELEGATION MEMBER, IGNITED, CAUSING 8 FPJMT PERSONNEL AND ONE CREWMAN TO SUFFER MINOR BURNS. THE PLANE WAS NOT DAMAGED STRUCTURALLY AND CONTINUED ON TO SAIGON WHERE IT LANDED SAFELY. UPON THE ARRIVAL OF THE PLANE IN SAIGON AN IMPASSE DEVELOPED WHEN DRV AND PRG REPS REFUSED TO PERMIT GVN AUTHORITIES TO INSPECT THEIR PERSONAL BAGGAGE AND CARGO.

AS OF 1530 TODAY ALL BAGGAGE AND CARGO AS WELL AS SEVERAL DRV AND PRG DELEGATION MEMBERS REMAIN ON THE PLANE AT TAN SON NHUT.

2. AT THE JUNE 9 SPECIAL FPJMT MEETING, A PROPOSAL WAS MADE THAT ALL FOUR FPJMT DELEGATIONS SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO OBSERVE A U. S. EOD SPECIALIST TEAM WHICH WAS IMMEDIATELY FLOWN IN FROM THAILAND, CONDUCT AN EXAMINATION OF THE OVERNIGHT BAG IN WHICH THE DEVICE WAS LOCATED, FOLLOWING WHICH ALL OTHER BAGGAGE AND CARGO WOULD BE OFF- LOADED WITHOUT BEING INSPECTED BY GVN AUTHORITIES. THIS PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED BY ALL THE DELEGATIONS EXCEPT THE RVN DELEGATION

WHICH IS PRESENTLY SEEKING INSTRUCTIONS.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 10318 01 OF 02 091202 Z

3. THE ABOVE MEETING WAS ONLY ARRANGED AFTER AN ALL- NIGHT PLANESIDE DEBATE WHICH ON OCCASION BECAME QUITE ACRIMONIOUS.

PART III: VC/ HANOI PROPAGANDA:

NHAN DAN, THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PARTY PAPER, ON JUNE 9 REJECTED AS UNTRUE REPORTS THAT THE USA AND DRV HAD AGREED ON A PLAN FOR ENDING THE WAR IN CAMBODIA. NHAN DAN SAID " THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE COMPLETELY DIVORCED FROM REALITY AND ARE 100 PERCENT FABRICATIONS BY THE US SIDE." THE PARTY PAPER ALSO REPEATED THE STANDARD CALL THAT " THE CAMBODIAN QUESTION... MUST BE SOLVED BY THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE."

PART IV: PRG PRESS CLAIMS

PRG SPOKESMAN, AT REGULAR SATURDAY PRESS BRIEFING, STATED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION THAT PRG IS INDEED BUILDING ROADS AND AIRSTRIPS IN AREAS OF SVN UNDER ITS CONTROL. THESE ACTIVITIES ARE PART OF PRG' S ONGOING PROCESS OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN ITS " ZONE". AIRSTRIPS ARE DESCRIBED AS BEING FOR CIVILIAN USE ONLY.

ASKED WHETHER PRG HAD PLANES FOR USE ON THESE STRIPS, SPOKESMAN
REPLIED " NOT AT PRESENT", BUT DECLARED THAT PRG " HAS THE RIGHT" TO
ESTABLISH ITS OWN CIVIL AIRLINE TO SERVE AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 10318 02 OF 02 091250 Z

43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2932

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

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AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP TRAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 10318

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COMMENT: TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS FIRST TIME PRG
HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT IT IS ENGAGED IN BUILDING AIRFIELDS. END
COMMENT) IN COURSE OF BRIEFING, SPOKESMAN ALSO CLAIMED THAT
IN 2- WEEK PERIOD BETWEEN MAY 12 AND 26, PRG HAD SCORED MAJOR
VICTORY OVER ARVN FORCES IN AN AREA " IN THE DELTA, 50 MILES
SW OF SAIGON" (LOCATION NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED BY SPOKESMAN). PRG
CLAIMS TO HAVE KILLED 300 ARVN TROOPS IN THIS FIGHTING. (COMMENT:
THIS MAY REFER TO THE SIGNIFICANT VICTORY SCORED BY COMMUNIST
TROOPS IN DINH TUONG JUNE 3.)

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 10318 02 OF 02 091250 Z

PART V: MR-1

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR-1 CONTINUED AT A SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER LEVEL THAN IN PAST WEEKS, WITH 30 REPORTED COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS: 4 GROUND ATTACKS, 21 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF'S), AND 5 HARRASSMENTS. MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY OCCURRED IN WESTERN DUC DUC DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, WHERE ARVN/ RANGER ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN DRIVEN FROM THEIR POSITIONS. ONE PLATOON OF 27 MEN REMAINS OUT OF CONTACT. VNAF FLEW 4 CLOSE AIR SUPPORT MISSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS ACTION, THE FIRST IN THE 1ST DIV AO SINCE APRIL 10. IN A RELATED ACTION, THE REAR BASE OF THIS RANGER UNIT TOOK SEVERAL ABF'S DURING WHICH A VNAF HELICOPTER WAS HIT, KILLING 2 AND WOUNDING 7.

2. THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY REMAINED STEADY IN THE 1ST DIV AO WEST OF HUE. IN QUANG NGAI, THERE WERE TWO ENGAGEMENTS SOUTHEAST OF DUC PHO. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A TOTAL OF 3,972 ROUNDS, 1,209 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 2,765 SOUTH.

PART VI: MR -2

1. SECURITY SITUATION: THERE WAS A DEFINITE INCREASE IN ENEMY ACTIVITY FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE DAY IN MR-2. TOTAL OF 25 INCIDENTS REPORTED BY NHA TRANG TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER (TOC) AND POLOFFS IN PROVINCES. CASUALTIES: NVA/ VC: SEVEN KIA; RVNAF: FOUR KIA, 43 WIA. ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED IN BINH DINH WAS TRIPLE THAT IN KONTUM, RVNAF CASUALTIES IN TWO PROVINCES WERE ALMOST THE SAME: BINH DINH REPORTED 20 RVNAF WOUNDED AND 3 KILLED, WHILE KONTUM REPORTED 19 WOUNDED.

2. ACCORDING TO NHA TRANG TOC, ALL EXCEPT ONE OF RVNAF CASUALTIES IN KONTUM RESULTED FROM TWO ENEMY ATTACKS ON COMPANIES OF 23 RD RF BATTALION AROUND 0800 HOURS ON JUNE 8. ONE ATTACK WAS ON BATTALION HQTRS. OF THE 253 RD, LOCATED ON NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE (12 KMS WEST OF KONTUM CITY) AND OTHER WAS ON TWO COMPANIES OF SAME BN LOCATED ABOUT 14 KMS DUE SOUTH OF BN HQ.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 10318 02 OF 02 091250 Z

3. FIGHTING AROUND TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE HAS INTENSIFIED SINCE FOREGOING INCIDENT REPORTS WERE COMPILED. KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT TRUNG NGHIA, SURROUNDED MORNING OF JUNE 1 (SEE JUNE 8 SITREP, IS OCCUPIED BY NVA AS OF MORNING JUNE 9. CURRENT FIGHTING (JUNE 9) IS STILL CONCENTRATED ALONG ROUTE 511, BETWEEN TRUNG NGHIA AND DAK LECK.

4. WESTERN APPROACH TO KONTUM CITY HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE MOST VULNERABLE, AND NVA/ VC GAINS SINCE EVENING OF JUNE 7 ARE THUS CONSIDERED TO HAVE CREATED MOST SERIOUS SITUATION

IN THE PROVINCE SINCE IMMEDIATE

POST- CEASEFIRE PERIOD. POLOFF DOUBTS, HOWEVER, THAT THE ENEMY'S NEAR- TERM OBJECTIVES INCLUDE ATTACK ON KONTUM CITY ITSELF. OTHER APPROACHES TO CITY HAVE REMAINED QUIET; THERE HAS BEEN NO ENEMY ATTEMPT

TO CLOSE QL-14 TO PLEIKU AND THUS ISOLATE THE CITY; AND CITY ITSELF HAS NOT BEEN SHELLED SINCE JUNE 6.

PART VII: MR -3

1. IN 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 JUNE 9 MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR -3 FURTHER INCREASED, WITH GVN REPORTING 41 COMMUNIST- INITIATED INCIDENTS: 17 ABF'S, 19 GROUND ATTACKS, AND 5 MINE/ BOOBY- TRAP INCIDENTS. RVN LOST 14 KIA, INCLUDING ONE CIVILIAN, AND 90 WOUNDED. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE REPORTED AT 56 KIA. CONGEN BIEN HOA COMMENTS THAT IF COMMUNISTS ARE AS REPORTED AWAITING ORDERS TO LAUNCH A LAND- AND- PEOPLE GRAB, THE WORD HAD NOT COME AS OF THIS MORNING; NEVERTHELESS, RVNAF FORCES CONTINUE TO FULL ALERT AND HAVE STEPPED UP THEIR OWN SPOILING ACTIVITIES IN EXPECTATION OF SUCH A COMMUNIST LUNGE.

2. HOWEVER, ARVN ATTEMPT TO OPEN ROUTE 13 TO AN LOC HAS BEEN CALLED OFF BECAUSE OF STRONG COMMUNIST RESISTENCE. THE FOUR- PRONGED EFFORT, INVOLVING ARVN 5 TH DIV AND 31 ST RANGER GROUP, HAD MADE HARDLY ANY PROGRESS. DURING 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 JUNE 9 COMMUNISTS HAD REACTED WITH 10 GROUND ATTACKS AND 9 ABF'S, THE LATTER INCLUDING SHELLING OF BOTH LAI KHE AND AN LOC.

3. MOREOVER, IN EASTERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, ARVN 18 TH DIV ELEMENTS WHICH HAD SHIFTED TO FILL IN BEHIND THE ARVN 5 TH DIV HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FULFILL THEIR MISSION, TO REOPEN INTER- PROVINCIAL ROUTE 1 A
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PAGE 04 SAIGON 10318 02 OF 02 091250 Z

BETWEEN PHU CUONG AND PHU GIAO. THE NVA CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN A CHECKPOINT ON THE HIGHWAY WHICH IS PERMITTING PASSAGE OF CIVILIAN TRAFFIC AFTER INSPECTION.

4. THE TONG LE CHAN RANGER BASE TOOK 60 ASSORTED ROUNDS MORTAR AND ARTILLERY DURING THE DAY WHICH WOUNDED 3 DEFENDERS. COMMUNIST TRUCK MOVEMENTS HAVE BEEN DETECTED BY RANGERS MANNING TONG LE CHAN WHO CALLED IN ARTILLERY AND AIRSTRIKES, THE LATTER SOMEWHAT HAMPERED BY POOR WEATHER.

5. OTHER LIGHT HARRASSING ABF'S AND GROUND SKIRMISHES ARE REPORTED FROM BINH DUONG, TAY NINH, HAU NGHIA, LONG AN, PHUOC LONG, AND BINH TUY PROVINCES, USUALLY BETWEEN RVNAF PATROLS AND COMMUNIST RECON ELEMENTS.

PART VIII: MR -4

6. A WEEK OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN THE DELTA CONTINUED JUNE 8 WITH 81 REPORTED NVA/ VC INITIATED INCIDENTS, 16 GROUND ATTACKS, 53 ABF'S, 9 HARRASSMENTS, AND 3 TERRORIST ACTS. AS USUAL, FIGHTING

WAS CONCENTRATED IN DINH TUONG AND CHUONG THIEN. GVN MR-4
OFFICERS ACKNOWLEDGE LOSSES OF 31 KIA AND 130 WIA, AND CLAIM
143 NVA/ VC KIA.
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